

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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**Statement by U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick following  
Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**

"I thank our gracious hosts, Minister Derbez and Governor Ramírez-Acuño. Mexico and the state of Jalisco, in particular, provide a shining example of the fruits that openness and effort can provide. The United States and Canada have also benefited greatly. NAFTA has increased income, choice, and quality of life for families, workers, and consumers in all three countries. It has proven to be an unqualified success for the United States, Mexico, and Canada. As of January 1, 2003, practically all NAFTA provisions will have been implemented.

"I also joined other APEC Ministers in their strong support for the Doha Development Agenda by committing to meet all deadlines in order to successfully complete negotiations by January 2005 and by undertaking targeted capacity building and technical assistance to help developing countries participate fully. As we made clear through our leadership in Doha, the United States is deeply committed to advancing global trade liberalization. We will continue to push for ambitious agricultural liberalization and reform on a global level, and are committed to all three agriculture pillars in the Doha declaration. We hope for the same of all our APEC and WTO partners.

"I welcomed APEC support for U.S. proposals to implement the Shanghai Accord on transparency, trade facilitation, and trade policies to advance the new economy. APEC should continue to play an important role in regional and global trade and investment liberalization by having taken concrete actions in these important areas by the APEC leaders' meeting in October."

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